

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 158612
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL BELIZE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 158612

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, UK, GT, BH

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON BRITISH REINFORCEMENTS

1. FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS RESULTED FROM THE JULY
7 NOON BRIEFING. THE POINTS MADE WERE CLEARED FULLY AT THE
HIGHEST LEVELS. EMBASSY SHOULD DRAW ON THEM IN BOTH ITS
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMMENTS ON PRESENT SITUATION.

2. BEGIN Q'S AND A'S:

Q. ANYTHING ON BELIZE?

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 158612

A. ANYTHING ON BELIZE?

Q. WELL, WAS THE SECRETARY OF STATE INFORMED OF THE PLAN
OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO REINFORCE ITS GARRISON IN
BELIZE.

A. DID WE KNOW THAT THERE WERE GOING TO BE FLIGHTS COMING

THROUGH OUR BASE IN BERMUDA?

Q. YES.

A. THE BASE IN BERMUDA IS THERE PURSUANT TO AN AGREEMENT

WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM SINCE 1949. UNDER THAT AGREEMENT IT PROVIDES -- THE AGREEMENT, THAT IS, PROVIDES THE UNITED KINGDOM WITH REFUELING, STOPOVER AND OVERFLIGHT PRIVILEGES.

THE GRANTING OF THESE PRIVILEGES IS ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS AND HAS BEEN A LONGSTANDING TRADITION IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

AND TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, HAVING SAID THAT, YES.

Q. WAS THIS AT THE TALK LAST NIGHT BETWEEN MR. ROWLANDS AND --

A. AT THE TALK LAST NIGHT? NO. NO; I MEAN, THE INFORMATION -- I'M NOT GOING TO GO INTO, YOU KNOW, WHEN OR WHERE OR HOW. I'M ANSWERING YES, WE KNEW THAT THEY WERE FLYING THROUGH.

Q. AND DO YOU HAVE ANY OPINION ON IT?
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 158612

A. DO I HAVE ANY OPINION ON IT? NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY OPINION ON IT.

Q. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS NO VIEWS ON THE --?

A. ON WHAT?

Q. ON BRITAIN REINFORCING ITS GARRISON AT THIS TIME?

A. NO, WE DON'T HAVE ANY VIEWS ON IT.

Q. WAS YOUR OPINION ASKED BY THE BRITISH?

A. I'M REALLY NOT GOING TO GO INTO CONVERSATIONS THAT WE'VE HAD WITH THEM.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE SITUATION THERE GENERALLY? I MEAN THERE ARE RUMBLINGS OF POSSIBLE WAR, INVASION OR COUNTER-INVASION -- WHATEVER.

A. WELL, WE HAVE A GENERAL ASSESSMENT THAT A TENSE SITU-

ATION EXISTS ALONG THE BORDER AREAS. WE'RE ENCOURAGED THAT BOTH GREAT BRITAIN AND THE GUATEMALANS ARE MEETING HERE IN WASHINGTON TO NEGOTIATE THIS ISSUE.

WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH, AS YOU KNOW, WITH BOTH FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA AND MINISTER ROWLANDS; AND WE ARE

FOLLOWING THE DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY.

WE ARE NOT INVOLVED IN THIS, EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT WE ARE INTERESTED, AS ARE ALL THE PARTIES, IN AVOIDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SITUATION WHICH COULD DISRUPT THE PEACE IN THE HEMISPHERE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 STATE 158612

Q. GUATEMALAN DIPLOMATS HAVE HINTED THAT THEY MAY INVOKE THE RIO TREATY OUT OF THESE SIX, OF WHICH THE U.S. IS A SIGNATORY, FROM A MEETING OF CONSULTATION ON THE TROOPS BEING MOVED IN. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT?

A. NO, I DON'T; NO. BOTH THE PARTIES ARE MEETING HERE, HOWEVER, AND I THINK YOU MIGHT WANT TO REFER TO THEM ANY QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE ON THE SPECIFICS OF THE DISPUTE.

Q. HOLDING?

A. YES.

Q. EXCUSE ME.

A. LET ME MAKE SURE THAT I'M THROUGH WITH BELIZE --

Q. SURE.

A. -- BECAUSE I KNOW THAT TO ONE OR TWO PEOPLE HERE IT WAS A MATTER OF SOME CONCERN.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE? O.K.

Q. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT?

A. YES. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, DISPUTES, INDEPENDENCE, BRIEFING MATERIALS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: PBOR, SOPN, PDEV, MASS, UK, GT, BH, US
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vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8ea88a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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